

I am writing to comment on the proposal to consider lifting the ban on cell phone use during flights. I am strongly opposed to allowing cell phone use on flights. I have been on a number of flights where people are using their phones before and after take-off and it is extremely noisy, people are talking extremely loud since the person on the other end of the connection "can't hear them clearly," and is a nuisance to other travelers who do not wish to have someone sitting next to them shouting into a phone for the majority of a flight, especially if the flight is international (often 12 hours) or across the country (often 6 hours). If people have access to a wireless connection and are able to keep in touch with business associates through e-mail and/or instant messaging, then there is no reason why a phone call cannot wait until the flight is over. I fly on several long flights, often red-eye flights, and I am often very tired and just want to read and sleep and do not want to be sitting next to someone yelling into their phone. The seats are close together, and many people are not courteous and use their phone on every whim instead of just for very urgent calls, and then often stay on the phone just chatting away for a long time. Since the seating is so crowded, that means that a loud talker could be yelling 12 inches away from my ear for the entire flight. This would be a most unpleasant experience and I would definitely curtail my travel. Unlike a store or a restaurant, it is impossible to move away from these loud talkers especially if there is turbulence and/or the "fasten-seat belt" indicator sign is on. I hope that the commission takes loud, rude, conversations into consideration before deciding to allow phone conversations. Another problem that could occur is if someone is sleeping and does not hear their phone ring. Then everyone around has to listen to the phone ring several times, and this can be very annoying especially if the ringer is set at a high volume. And often times I have had the experience where if the person does not pick up the phone, the caller will call right back again after a few minutes, and then will repeat this several times until the phone is finally picked up. I do not want to be on a long flight where someone's phone is ringing non-stop. If cell phone use is allowed, it would be very helpful if there were a section at the rear of the plane where people could go to use cell phones. Or there should be a way to complain about rude and loud talkers so that they can be moved to a different seat.

I sincerely hope that the commission does not allow cell phone use, because unlike other modes of transportation where, like on a boat, it is easy to step onto an outer deck or to step into a cafe or snack bar area where there is other noise, or on a train where it is easy to designate a car specifically for cell phone users or again it is easy for them to be asked to step into the snack bar area to use the phone, on a plane there is nowhere to step so as not to disturb other passengers. I hope everyone considers the possibility of having to endure a 12 hour flight with loud talkers sitting on either side of them in economy class and how unpleasant this would be for everyone.